

# Long Term Forecast of Tsunamis

Diego Arcas, Vasily Titov  
NOAA Center for Tsunami Research  
Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory



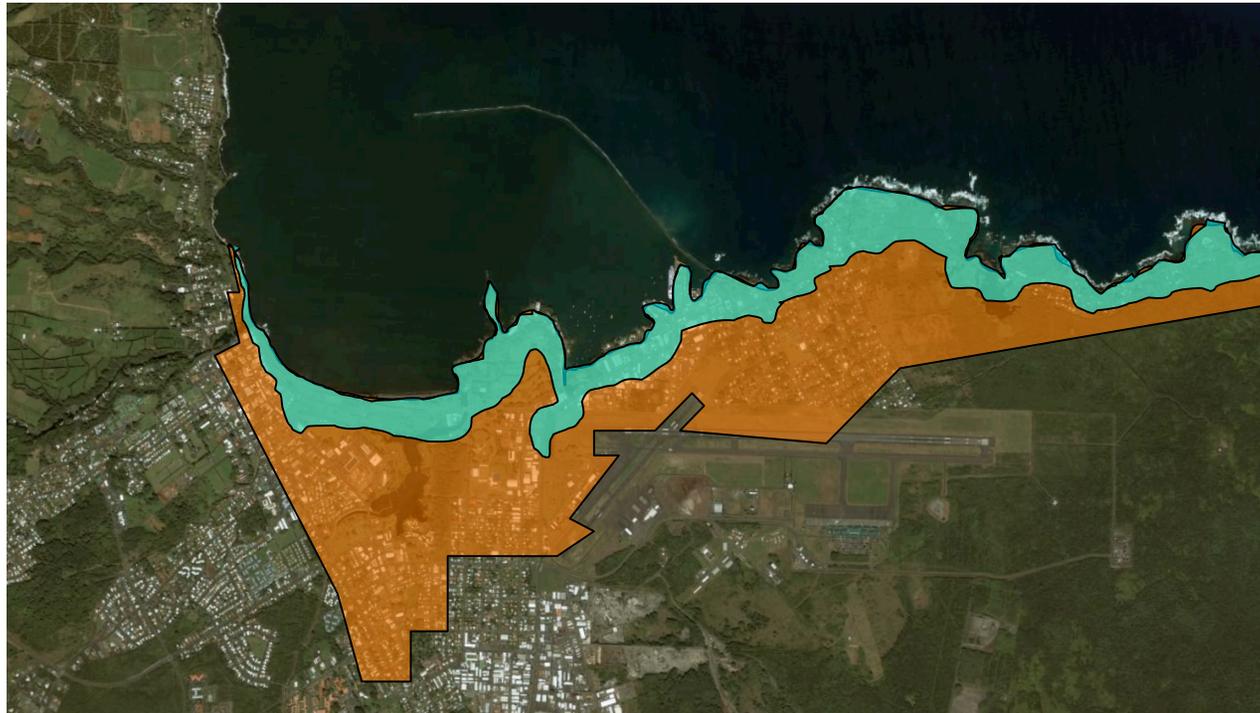
# What is Long-term Forecasting of Tsunamis?

It is the use of the operational tsunami simulation model to identify the long term impact of tsunamis.





## Short versus Long-term forecast inundation at Hilo.



# Who needs Long-term Forecasting?

60 year time-span:

**NOAA** (facilities life span)

100-500 year time-span:

**Federal Emergency  
Management Agency**  
(flood insurance maps)

10000 year time-span:

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
(siting of nuclear power plants)

60-10000+ year time-span:  
Worst Case Scenario

**States** (tsunami evacuation maps)



**NOAA Strategic Plan: Improve predictability of the onset, duration, and impact of hazardous severe weather and water events.**

**NOAA Research Plan: Improve NOAA's understanding and forecast capability in coasts, estuaries, and oceans.**

3-5 Year Milestone: Improve tsunami warnings with emphasis on run-up and inundation, and reducing false alarms.



# How is Long-term Forecasting performed at PMEL?

1-Use of tested and validated tsunami numerical model.

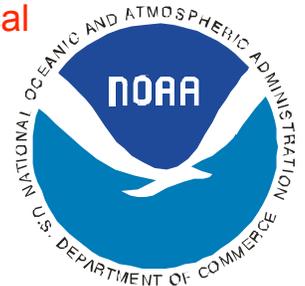
(Standards, Criteria and Procedures for NOAA Evaluation of Tsunami Numerical Models (NOAA Tech Memo OAR PMEL-135)).

2-Development of high resolution, state of the art digital elevation models. (10 to 30 meter resolution topo/bathy models).

3-Data acquisition and validation with historical events.

(Tsunami deposits, tide gauge data, selection of probabilistic sources).

4-Analysis and interpretation of the results. (NOAA Technical Memorandum).

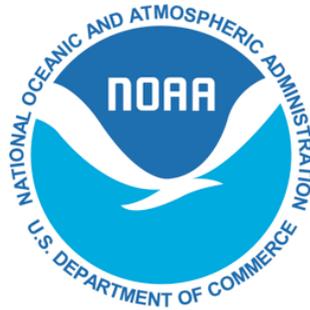


## Long-term Forecast:

- *Deterministic Approach* (Pearl Harbor Study)
- *Probabilistic Approach* (Seaside Pilot Study)



# 1- Validated Numerical Code



## Method of Splitting Tsunami (MOST) Software Manual

7/6/2006

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory  
**Tsunami Research Program**

NOAA Technical Memorandum OAR PMEL-135

### STANDARDS, CRITERIA, AND PROCEDURES FOR NOAA EVALUATION OF TSUNAMI NUMERICAL MODELS

Costas E. Synolakis<sup>1</sup>  
Eddie N. Bernard<sup>2</sup>  
Vasily V. Titov<sup>3</sup>  
Utku Kânoğlu<sup>4</sup>  
Frank I. González<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Viterbi School of Civil Engineering  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA

<sup>2</sup>Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory  
Seattle, WA

<sup>3</sup>Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO)  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Engineering Sciences  
Middle East Technical University  
Ankara, TURKEY

Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory  
Seattle, WA  
May 2007



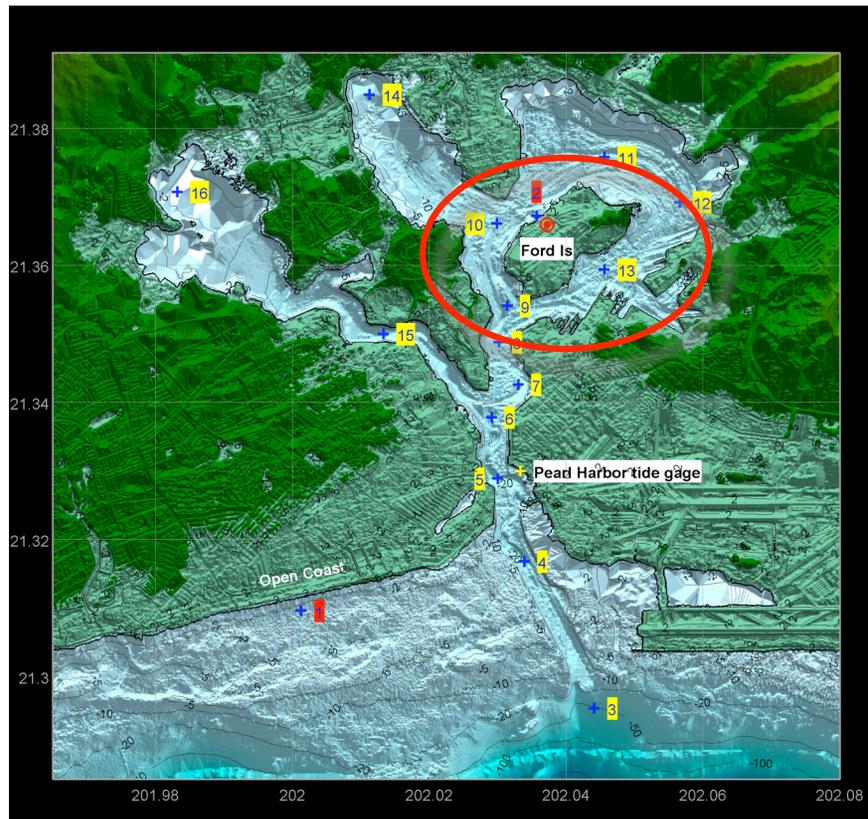
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**Carlos M. Gutierrez**  
Secretary

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
Under Secretary for Oceans  
and Atmosphere/Administrator

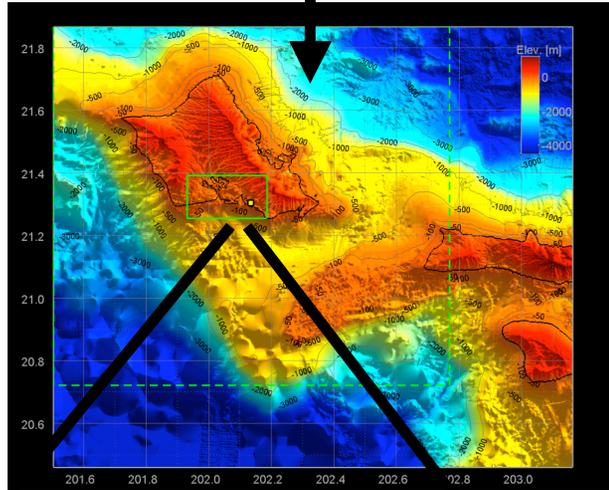
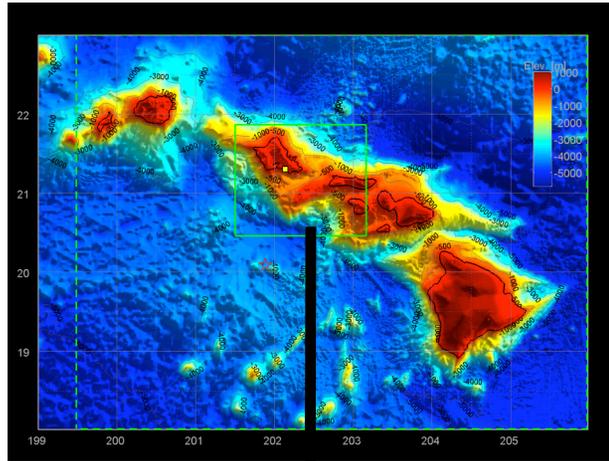
Office of Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Research  
Richard W. Spinrad  
Assistant Administrator



# Relocation of emergency facilities and vital infrastructure: NOAA's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center

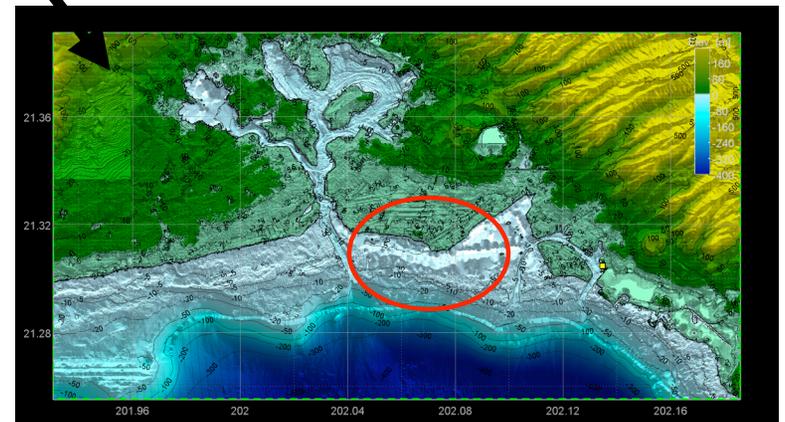


### 3- Data Acquisition for Model Validation



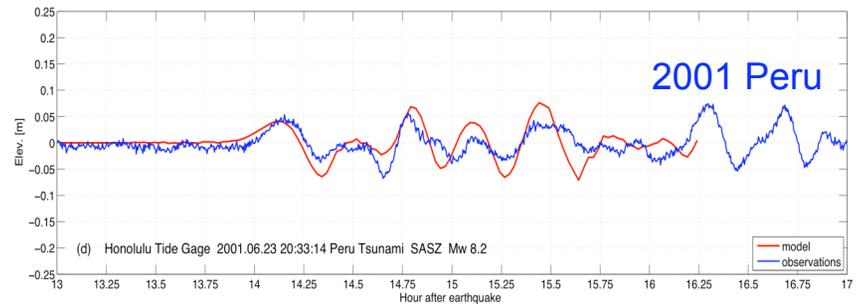
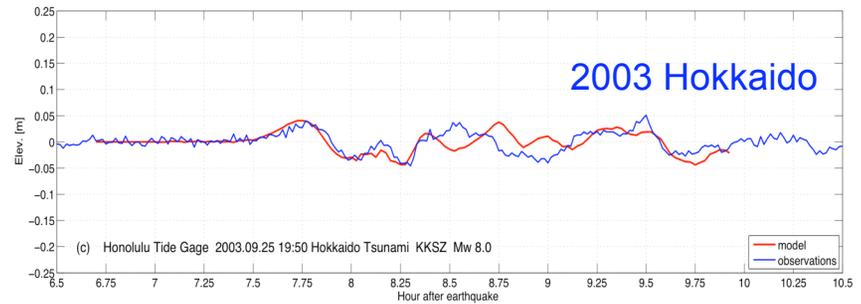
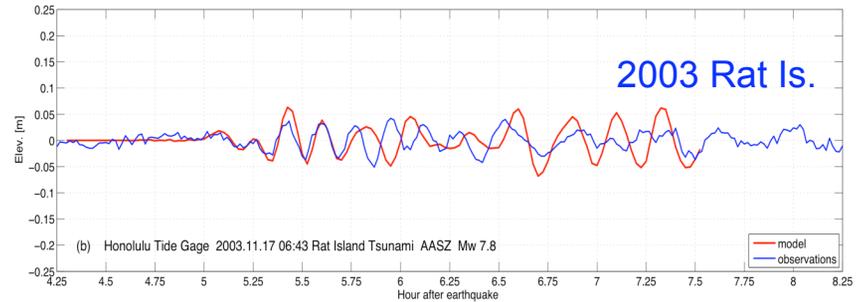
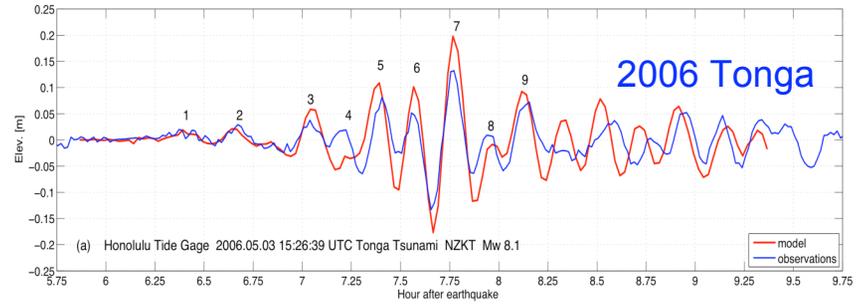
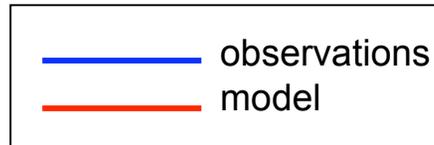
2006 DEM

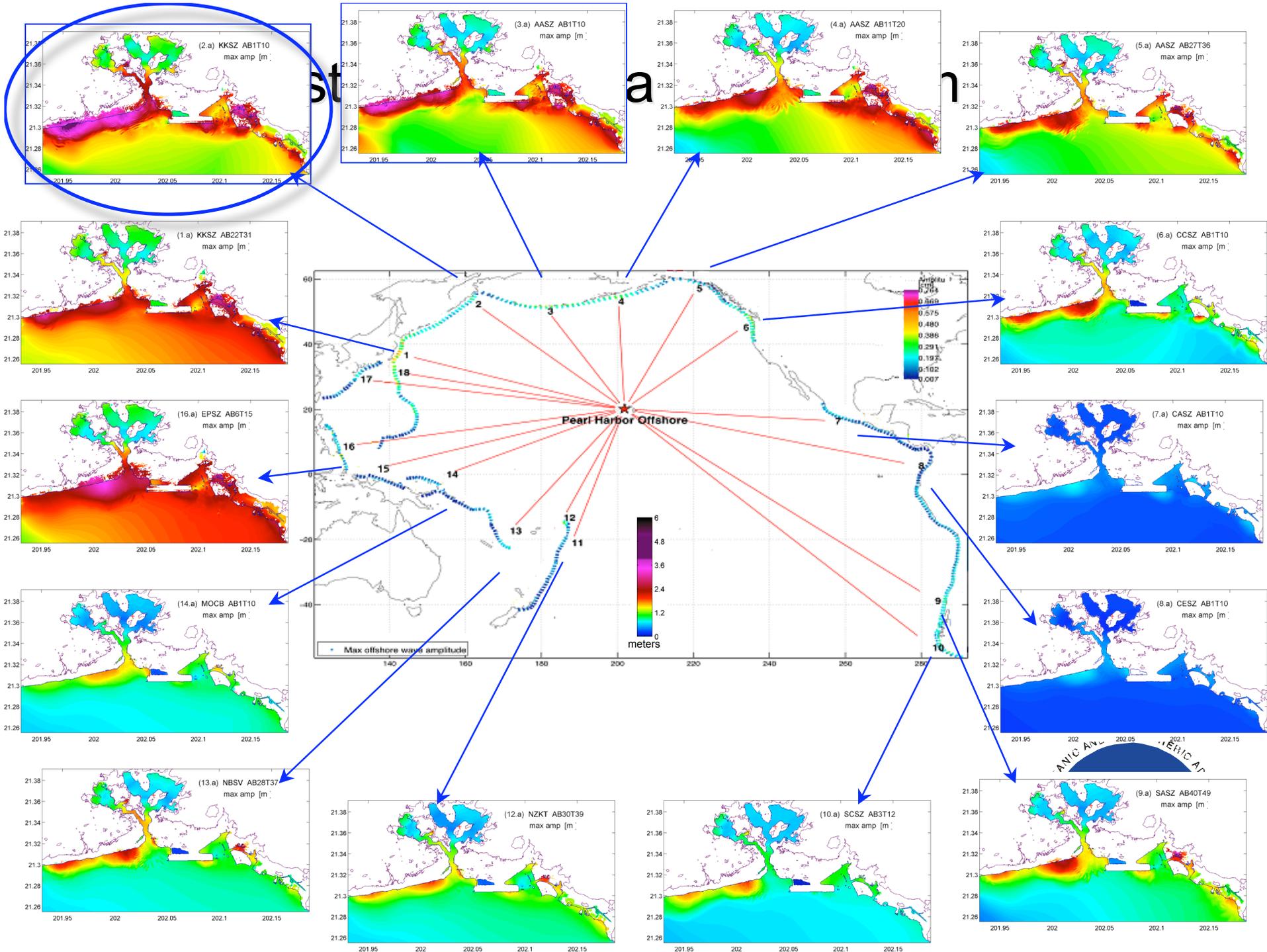
1960 DEM



### 3- Data Acquisition for Model Validation.

Sources computed from DART observations available for recent events.





## Long-term Forecast:

- *Deterministic Approach* (Pearl Harbor Study)
- *Probabilistic Approach* (Seaside Pilot Study)



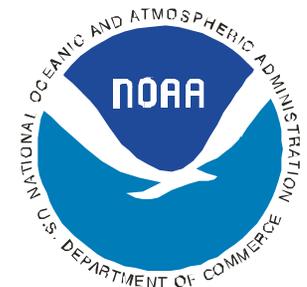
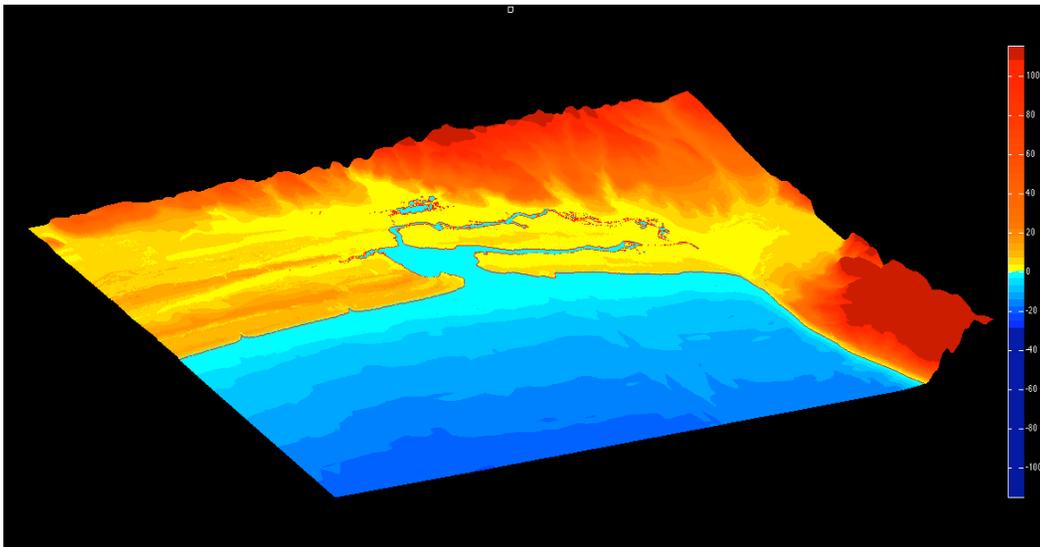
## 2- Development of a high resolution Digital Elevation Model



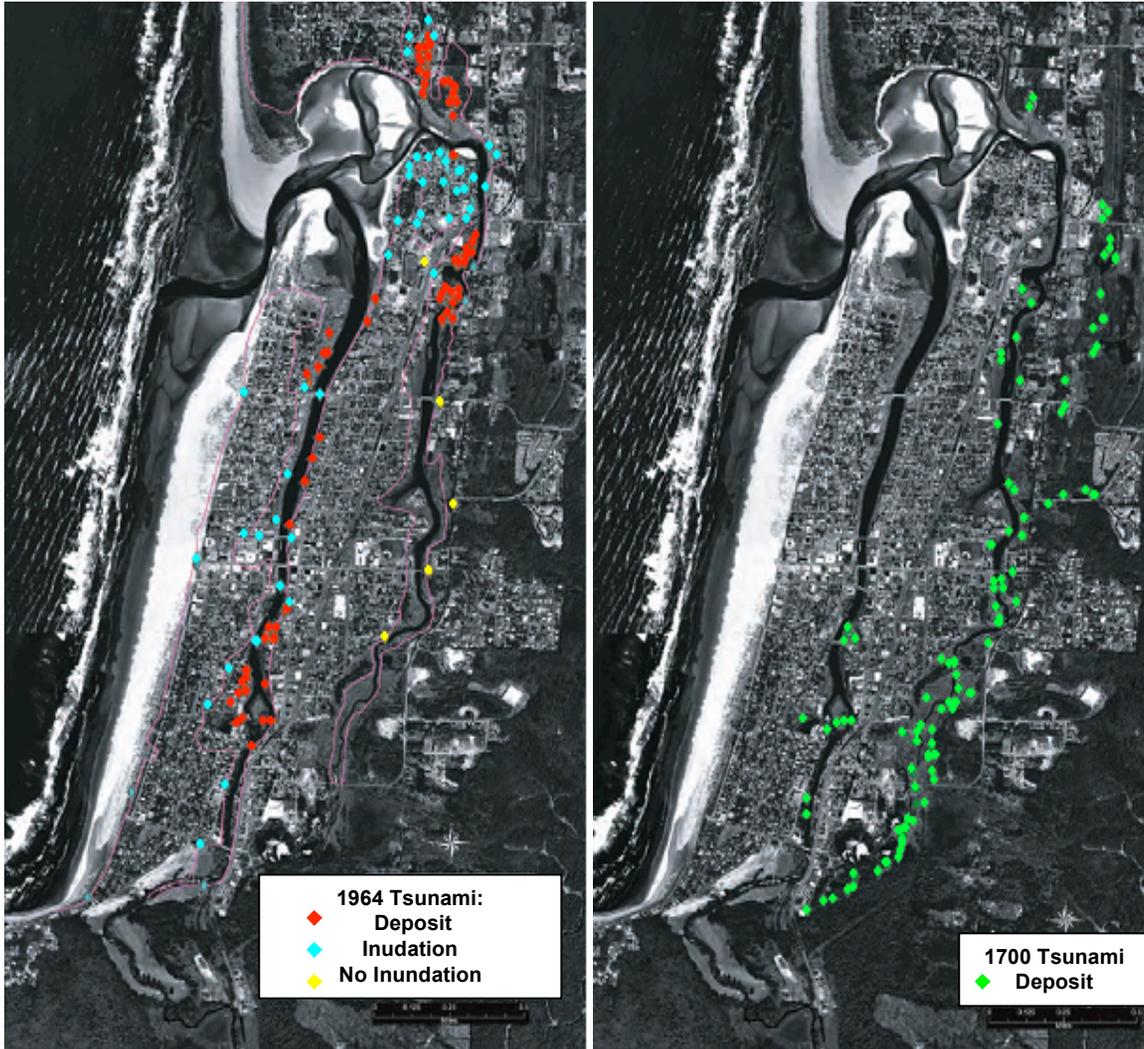
-1/3 arc sec resolution is necessary for high quality simulations.

-Grids should cover deep (1000 m) and shallow areas.

-DEM is generated in partnership with NGDC, USGS...



### 3- Data Acquisition for Model Validation



1964 Alaska

1700 Cascadia

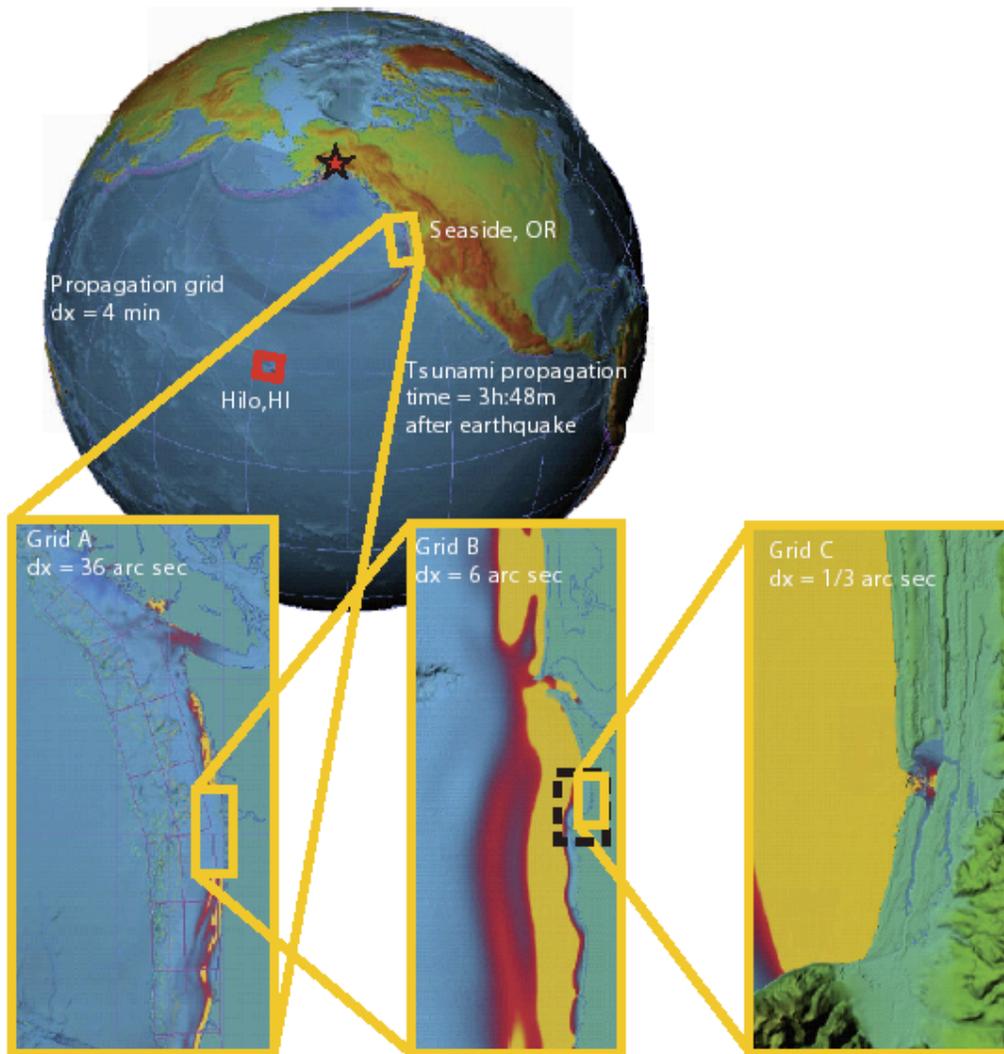
-No tide gauge available.

-Tsunami deposits and eye-witness reports provided needed validation data.

-Source available for the 1964 event inverted from HI gauges.



### 3- Data Acquisition for Model Validation



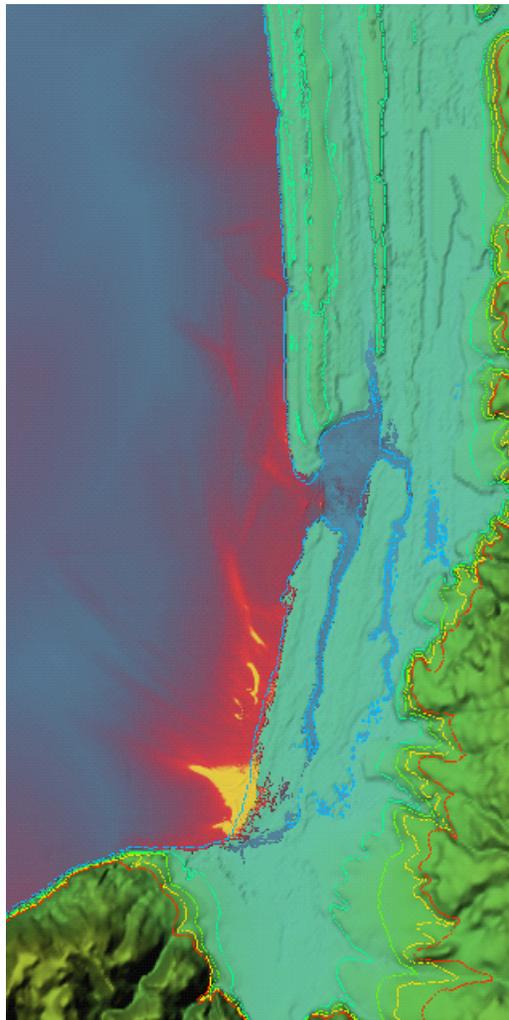
## March 28, 1964 Alaskan Tsunami

Model comparisons:

- Inundation field data at Seaside, Oregon
- Tide gage measurement at Hilo, Hawaii



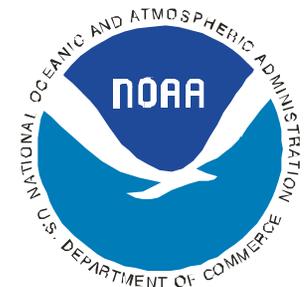
### 3- Data Acquisition for Model Validation



Seaside, Oregon  
Good Friday Tsunami from the  
Great Alaska Earthquake,  
March 27, 1964

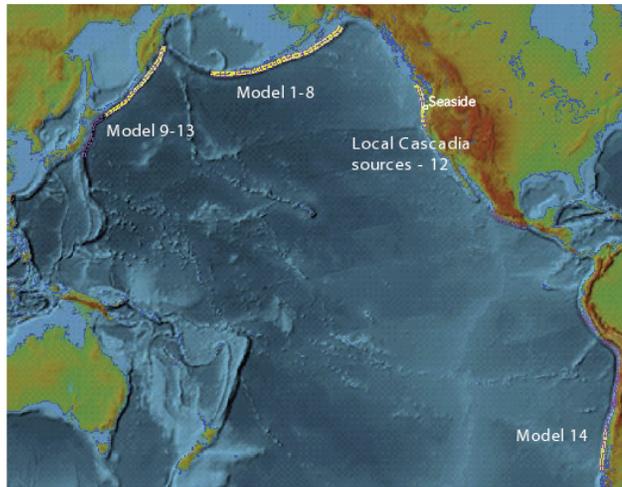
### 1964 tsunami at Seaside

Eyewitness reports of the 1964 tsunami inundation at Seaside (compiled and measured by T. Horning) are the best available tsunami field data for this location. The inundation field measurements were compared with tsunami simulation results to ensure accuracy of tsunami inundation predictions. The test showed that high-resolution grid of at least 10m resolution is required for the Seaside tsunami inundation model.

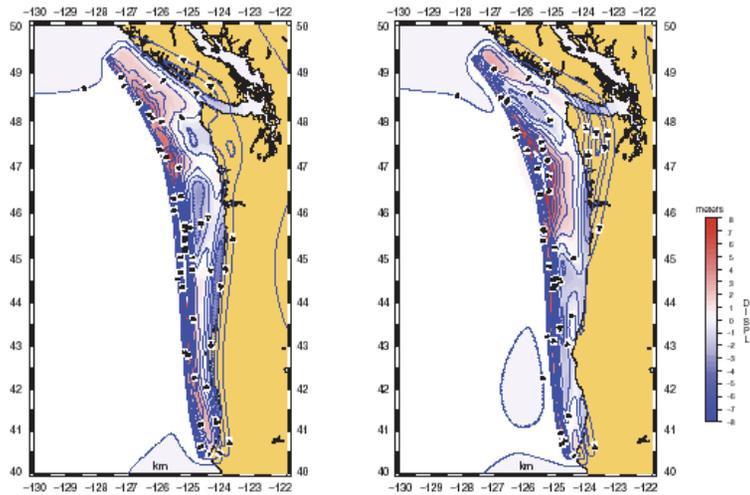


# Probabilistic Simulations

An ensemble of potential sources is selected



The associated tsunami is modeled

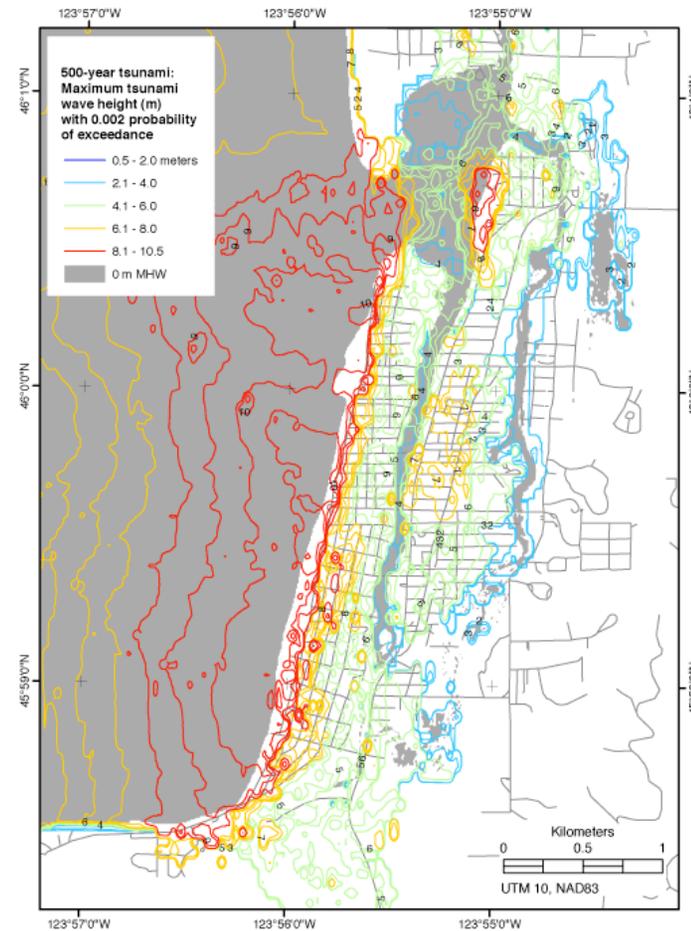


# 500 Year Tsunami Map

The associated tsunami is modeled



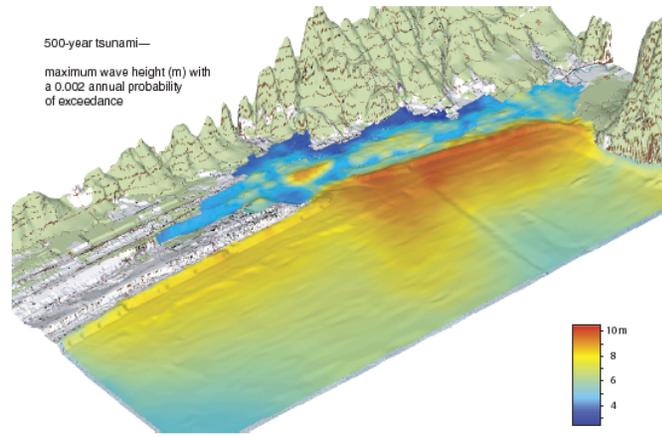
Tsunami inundation probability is inferred



# 4-Product Generation: Recommendations Report, Tsunami Evacuation Maps

## Seaside, Oregon Tsunami Pilot Study— Modernization of FEMA Flood Hazard Maps

By Tsunami Pilot Study Working Group



Joint NOAA/USGS/FEMA Special Report  
 U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency



**FEMA**

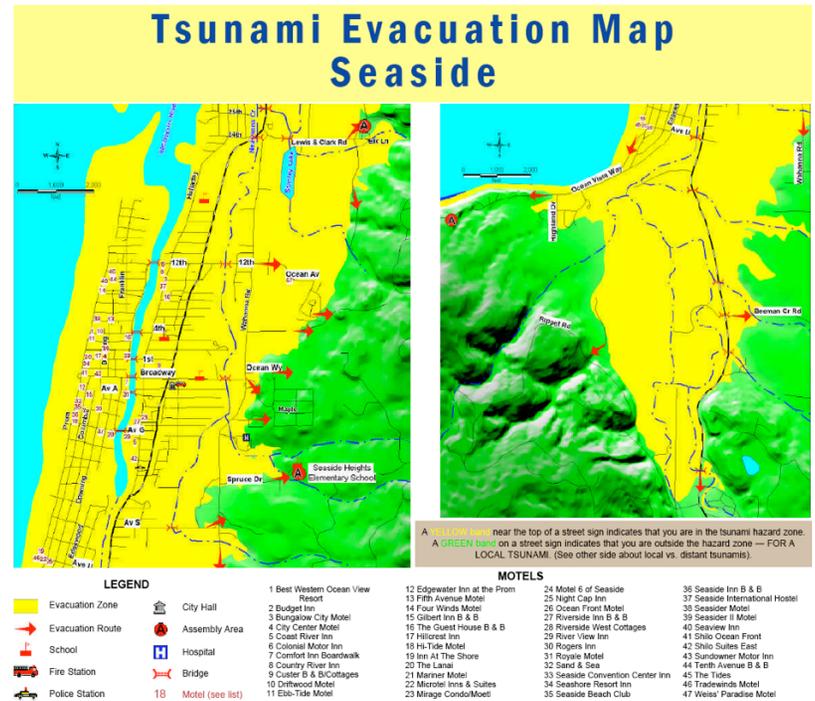
**IF YOU FEEL THE GROUND SHAKE,  
 MOVE QUICKLY TO HIGHER GROUND  
 AND SAFETY!  
 DO NOT WAIT FOR AN OFFICIAL WARNING!**



### NOTICE

The evacuation zone on this map was developed by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in consultation with local officials. It is intended to represent a worst-case scenario for a tsunami caused by an undersea earthquake near the Oregon coast. Evacuation routes were developed by local officials and reviewed by the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is publishing this brochure because the information furthers the mission of the Department. The map is intended for emergency response and should not be used for site-specific planning.



[http://nctr.pmel.noaa.gov/education/science/docs/tsun2975/tsun2975\\_front\\_matter.pdf](http://nctr.pmel.noaa.gov/education/science/docs/tsun2975/tsun2975_front_matter.pdf)

# Summary

- The **relevance** of Long-term Forecast is underlined by the variety of its applications as reflected in the diversity of “customers” and collaborating institutions: *NOAA, FEMA, NRC, Washington State....*
- PMEL’s Methodology ensures **quality** of the study by using : *Validated numerical model, high resolution DEMs, site-specific validation calculations.*
- PMEL’s Methodology optimizes the **performance** and enhances the **quality** via the use of operational forecasts tools: *Propagation database, Stand-by Inundation Models.*

